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COCOM Doc. 3416.31/5

Date: May 29, 1959

COORDINATING COMMITTEEMEMORANDUM FROM THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION

Concerning

COLD ROLLED GRAIN ORIENTED SILICON ELECTRICAL STEEL (IL-1631)

Reference: COCOM Doc. 3416.31/2

1. United States technicians have been actively studying the French proposal to modify Item 1631(e). They have found that because of the present wording of Item 1631(a), the change proposed by the French authorities in 1631(e) would release from embargo thin cold rolled grain oriented silicon electrical steel. In the United States, over 90 percent of this steel is used for military electronic applications, e.g. high-frequency transformers (operating at a power frequency of 400 cycles per second) employed in airborne and missile equipment, and in radar pulse transformers.

2. As presently written, Item 1631(a) embargoes thicknesses of .01 mm (.0039 inch) and less. Low frequency (50 to 60 cycle) power transformers, which are not embargoed, use steel of thicknesses of .036 to .030 mm (.014 to .012 inch). These thicknesses are freed by the present thickness cut-off. However, high frequency transformers for military purposes use thickness of .015 to .0025 mm (.006 to .001 inch) and less. (For 400 cycle operation the predominant gage is .0102 mm (.004 inch) but a somewhat thicker gage can also be used with some sacrifice in efficiency.) While thickness of .01 mm (.0039 inch) and less would remain embargoed, those above, including the range to .015 mm (.006 inch) would be freed. Therefore, in order to embargo thicknesses with predominantly military applications, the cut-off would have to be raised to some point somewhat above .015 mm (.006 inch) that would still free low frequency thicknesses. Graphically this situation is shown on the attached page.

3. As stated in the Committee on May 28, the United States authorities suggest that revision of Item 1631(e), as well as of Item 1631(a), be deferred at this time, pending review of certain metals items in October 1959, and further active study of Item 1631 in the meantime. If the Committee wishes to pursue revision of Item 1631 at this time, the United States Delegation would hope to have specific changes to propose in the very near future.

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